Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 31 and continuing through page 9, line 8, with the following paragraph:

Amplification was performed using an ~~iCycler~~ICYCLER® Thermal cycler (BioRad, Hercules, CA, USA) using standard procedures. The amplification is performed in plates having 96 wells. This instrument allows monitoring of fluorescence in up to 4 different channels. In short, one cycle of denaturation (95°C for 6 min) was performed, followed by 45 cycles of amplification (94°C for 30 s, 60°C for 60 s). The amplification was performed in a mix that consisted of: Promega PCR buffer 1X (Promega, Madison, WI, USA), 3.0 mM $MgC1_2$, 400 pmol of primers for mtDNA, 0.2 nM dNTP and 2 U of *Taq* polymerase (Promega). In accordance with the invention, the amplification for both nucleotide sequences I and II were performed in a single well, and the same is true for nucleotide sequences I' and II' (for determining the standard curves). Data were analysed using the software of the ~~iCycler~~ICYCLER®.